

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Original) A bathing aid, comprising:

a wheelchair separable into a seat unit for a bather to sit down on and a bogie unit located under the seat unit;

a bathtub having an open top for receiving the seat unit with the bather sitting thereon and a drainage port for draining hot water from the bathtub;

a cover for closing the open top of the bathtub except for an opening for allowing the bather to stick the head through; and

an overflow prevention mechanism having an overflow port located on a surface of the cover facing the bathtub, a cover-side overflow pipe extending from the overflow port through a body of the cover, and a bathtub-side overflow pipe, one end of which is connected to the cover-side overflow pipe when the cover is closed and the other end of which leads to either the drainage port or an external drainage pipe.

3. (Previously Presented) A bathing aid, comprising:

a wheelchair separable into a seat unit for a bather to sit down on and a bogie unit located under the seat unit;

a bathtub having an open top for receiving the seat unit with the bather sitting thereon;

a bathtub actuator having a motor, a vertical screw shaft rotated by the motor, and a movable unit having a ball screw engaged with the screw shaft and vertically moving with a rotation of the screw shaft; and

a bathtub supporter having a supportive shaft mounted on the movable unit for supporting a rear part of the bathtub, a set of wheels located under a bottom of the bathtub at a position closer to a front than the supportive shaft, and a guide slope descending frontward, on which the set of wheels runs, whereby a vertical motion of the movable unit in the bathtub actuator produces a vertical motion of the rear end of the bathtub through the supportive shaft, with the set of wheels moving up or down along the guide slope, which changes the orientation of the bathtub so that the direction of the open top changes between an upward direction and a frontward direction.

4. (Currently Amended) The bathing aid according to claim 3, wherein at least one wheel of the set of wheels is located inward of either sidewall of the bathtub.

5. (Original) The bathing aid according to claim 3, wherein the motor is used to bring the bathtub one of three states including: a storage state where the open top of the bathtub is directed almost frontward; a setting state where a front edge of the bathtub is located close to a floor and the open top of the bathtub is directed obliquely frontward, allowing the bather to be transferred into or out of the bathtub; and a normal bathing state where the open top of the bathtub is directed almost upward.

6. (Previously Presented) A bathing aid, comprising:

a wheelchair separable into a seat unit for a bather to sit down on and a bogie unit located under the seat unit;

a bathtub having an open top for receiving the seat unit with the bather sitting thereon;

a bathtub supporter for supporting the bathtub while allowing the bathtub to change its orientation so that a direction of the open top changes between an upward direction and a frontward direction; and

an expansible bogie-fastening element to which a predetermined part of the bogie unit is fastened for temporarily fixing the bogie unit, which element changes its position with a motion of the bathtub so that it retreats backward when the bathtub is moved toward an upright position while it expands forward when the bathtub is pushed forward, whereby the bathtub has a set of wheels located under the bottom thereof that runs when the bathtub changes its orientation, and the bogie-fastening element expands forward when the set of wheels comes onto the bogie-fastening element and exerts a pressure thereon from above, whereas the bogie-fastening element stands up and retreats backward when it is released from the pressure exerted by the set of wheels.

7. (Previously Presented) A bathing aid, including:

a wheelchair separable into a seat unit for a bather to sit down on and a bogie unit located under the seat unit, and

a bathtub having an open top for receiving the seat unit with the bather sitting thereon,

whereby the seat unit of the wheelchair with the bather sitting thereon is transferred into the bathtub, and then hot water is supplied into the bathtub, wherein the seat unit has a set of first wheels running on a bogie-side guide rail located in the bogie unit and a set of second wheels running on a bathtub-side guide rail located in the bathtub, where the set of first wheels is free from contact with the bathtub-side guide rail and the set of second wheels is free from contact with the bogie-side guide rail.

8. (Previously Presented) The bathing aid according to claim 7, wherein the bogie-side guide rail has two cylindrical rail elements, one located parallel to and above the other, the set of first wheels is composed of a disk-shaped core clamped by an outer and inner disks each having a diameter greater than that of the core, and when the set of first wheels

runs on the bogie-side guide rail, the core rolls in a space between the two rail elements, with the outer and inner disks clamping the two rail elements from both sides.

9. (Previously Presented) The bathing aid according to claim 7, wherein the bogie-side guide rail has a surface for the set of first wheels to run on, and an end part of the surface has an inclined profile that descends toward an end of the rail to be pointed to the bathtub when the bather is transferred into the bathtub.

10-12. (Canceled)